

Patent claims

1. Method for monitoring a pipeline for slow reduction of the free internal cross section (A) with the aid of the position (x) of a control valve (2) in the pipeline characterized in that, with an essentially constant flow of a medium through the control valve (2), at a first point in time (t1) a first position (x1) of the control valve (2) is determined and stored, that at at least a second, later point in time (t2) a second position (x2) of the control valve (2) is determined, that the time at which the position (x) of the valve (2) exceeds a specifiable threshold value (s) for a valve opening is determined, and that a signal is output to indicate the threshold being exceeded and/or threshold time.
2. Method in accordance with Claim 1, characterized in that the threshold value (s) is predetermined depending on the first position (x1) of the control valve (2), especially at 80% opening relative to the range of settings between complete valve opening and the first position (x1).
3. Method according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the setting signal is smoothed by a lowpass filter (16), especially by formation of a floating average, before the valve position is determined.
4. Method in accordance with one of the previous claims, characterized in that the change over time in the position (x) of the control valve (2) is determined and the point is estimated at which the position (x) of the control valve (2) is likely to exceed the specifiable threshold values (s) is estimated.
5. Method in accordance with one of the previous claims, characterized in that the pressure of the medium in the pipeline (1) is determined and that, if a permitted

deviation from an average pressure value is exceeded the monitoring of the pipeline (1) for reduction of the free internal cross section (A) is interrupted.

6. Method in accordance with one of the previous claims,
5 characterized in that, to suppress the influence of pressure variations on the position of the valve, a pressure compensation is executed on the basis of a predefined dependency of the valve position on the media pressure.

7. Position regulator for a control valve (2) with a position generator (10) to record the position (x) of the valve (2) and with a device (11) for evaluation of the recorded position, characterized in that the evaluation device (11) is embodied such that when a control valve (2) is used in the control circuit to regulate to a constant flow of a medium through a pipeline (1) to monitor the pipeline for slow reduction of the free internal cross section (A) with the aid of the position (x) of the control valve (2), at a first point in time (t1) a first position (x1) of the control valve (2) is determined and stored, that at a second, later point in time (t2) at least a second position (x2) of the control valve (2) is determined, that the time at which the position (x) of the valve (2) exceeds a specifiable threshold value (s) for valve opening, and that a signal to indicate that the threshold has been exceeded and/or the time at which it was exceeded is 25 output.